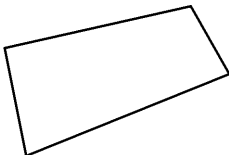


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30 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting to Discuss a Proposal for an Index to an Italian Daily Newspaper

1. Mr. Fina, OIR/State, described his need for a daily index of a leading Italian newspaper, preferably "La Stampa." He indicated that in addition to his own need, the following offices would find an index such as that proposed useful: the Western European and NIS staffs in the State Department, G-2, ONI, and USIA. Fina said that a number of Italian newspaper indices exist but none of them is adequate for U.S. intelligence research purposes. The index proposed by Fina would not only serve as an index to daily events but also to parliamentary debates, which are not indexed either.

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2. [] OCI, and [] ONE, indicated that their offices were particularly interested in the development of the proposed index. [] said that numerous requests from the DCI and others for information about events in Italy make such an index almost indispensable to her work. [] need is less urgent but is particularly important in times of political instability in Italy, such as the present. The index would be especially useful in providing information about small, scattered local elections.

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3. []
[] said that they would find the proposed index useful, even though the urgency of their needs therefor would fluctuate.

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4. [] asked why the New York Times' index was inadequate. Several of those who need the proposed index said that the New York Times' index is completely inadequate for detailed Italian events and that it has been deteriorating insofar as Italian coverage is concerned. The publication "Italian News Highlights," formerly compiled by MSA and State, is no longer

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published. "Weekly Press Trends," currently published by FOA and State, was said to be inadequate for intelligence research purposes. The lack of a PPO in Rome is apparently making life increasingly difficult for researchers on Italian affairs.

5. Mr. Fina estimated that the cost for the production of the proposed index would be about \$940 per year. [redacted] OCD, said the estimate was too low. She believes at least a GS-7 rather than a GS-5 would be required for the job.

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6. [redacted] considered the proposed index from the point of view of FDD. One of the difficulties in turning out a timely weekly index is the fact that copies of "La Stampa" frequently do not reach FDD until three or four weeks after the date of publication, and then a number of issues arrive at one time.

Although FDD could probably index a copy of the newspaper in a relatively short time, it would then have to be sent to OCD for indexing and reproduction. The whole process would ordinarily take two weeks but [redacted] felt that this time could be reduced.

[redacted] said that in general FDD had an antipathy to indices because it was felt that as much work went into indexing a newspaper as was required for exploiting it topic by topic. However, he made it clear that FDD would respond to consumers' requests and it seemed that a sufficient number of offices in the Agency were interested to warrant FDD's making a trial run of the proposed index for a time. The index would be reproduced on the standard [redacted] form, although the format may be revised in accordance with consumers' desires. Mr. Fina volunteered to try to expedite FDD's receipt of "La Stampa."

The index would be reproduced weekly. It would probably average four pages in length at a cost of \$5.00 per page. Thirty copies would be reproduced initially. Seven numbers of "La Stampa" would be indexed for each issue, and should the project continue, OCD would be requested to make quarterly compilations of the indices.

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Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP61S00750A000100130086-1

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